THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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WE suppose that Mr. Bunn was not classed as an Alliance Congressman in a clipping we recently made, because he is not a member of the Alliance. If all who are friendly to our movement in Congress were classed as Alliancemen, the list would be considerably enlarged.

WE shall give in our next issue our estimate of the character and work of the General Assembly. This is the first year in the history of the State when the farmers and planters had a clear majority in both branches of the legislature; and it will be instructive in many ways to make a calm review of the work done by them

A TOUCHING note from brother W H. Hogsed, of Shooting Creek Alli ance, announces the death of brother Reynolds. This promising young man was only 22 years of age when he was cut down by the tireless reaper. We extend to his family and the members of his Alliance our sympathy in this time of their affliction.

WE shall be glad to have our readers take under their consideration the question as to whether the special and private legislation enacted at every session of the General Assembly is not unnecessary, confusing, and wasteful. We have not the means of making any accurate estimate of such legislation at the late session. But it seems to us that at least two-fifths of the work done was of the special and private kind we have spoken of. There is no doubt at all that this class of legis-PROGRESSIVE FARMER

THE Legislature of Colorado, at its present session, elected a Speaker, and he entered upon, and discharged, the duties of his office for several days. The body then declared the speakership vacant, and elected another man. Both these men claimed the position, and the matter was submitted to the Supreme Court of the State. That tribunal has just rendered a decision, which declares that the legislature has power to remove a Speaker and elect another. The court also holds that the Speaker of a legislative body is not an officer of the State. It is believed that these questions were never before decided in an American court.

----An editor's life is not all sunshine There is much in it that is pleasant and attractive. There is some, also, that is not so pleasant. For instance, there are some people in the country who say that we are doing all in our power to pull the Democratic party to pieces. There are other people who say that we are seeking to turn all the Republicans in the Alliance into the Democratic party. And so it goes. We shall not be surprised if some persons are found, by and by, who say that we are the man who imprisoned Kaspar Hauser, or that we are the man who wore the Iron Mask, or that we are the identical man who struck Mr. William Patterson, or that we were accessory, before the fact, to the Fall of Man.

THE deplorable news comes to us of

buildings for school dormitories never be discontinued? Is it not criminal absolutely criminal—to sacrifice the bright young lives of boys and girls to the securement of architectural effect? It is to be feared that trustees think more about the vanity of constructing imposing piles, than they do about the safety of those committed to their care. The meaning of the disaster at Monroe is, construct the sleeping rooms of students upon ground floors. We cannot tell the number of disasters that have come to school children through tall buildings, within the short time, over which our own memory extends-

WE want to put emphasis upon the fact that the Alliance movement is as nearly a disinterested movement for the whole people as it is possible for any public movement to be. It is not a movement to enable a few men to get into place and power. It is a move ment for the benefit of all the people. Those who are not willing to pursue our reforms for the simple sake of the reforms themselves, and for the sake of the effect these reforms will have in purifying all the walks and avenues of public life, are not wanted in the movement at all; and the sooner such persons get their small baggage together and decamp, the better it will advertisement in The Progressive be for all parties. This movement is not a device for patching up compromises. It is a movement that aims at the complete political, economical and social regeneration of the State. It will not stop to haggle with rings and factions. It seeks to sweep these things clean away by means of the education and enlightenment of all classes of the

> A PROMINENT lawyer, who has done good service to his State, said in our presence the other day that he had no doubt that he could buy a charter for a thousand dollars, under which a rail road could be built to connect the Wil mington and Weldon road with the Virginia line. We have no reason to doubt the truthfulness of our friend's statement, because he is not a man who deals in extravagant statements about anything. Now does not this fact show a deplorable condition of things? In an insane desire to secure railroad extension in the State, these charters have been created in most unwise abundance. When will our people learn that the building of new lines of railroad does not secure the competition so irrationally looked to for the cure of the evils of transporta tion? The building of a new line of road, ordinarily means no more than the addition of another arm to an existing octopus. The competition looked to for relief fails to give relief for the reason that it is eliminated from the problem by combinations.

You see two large birds soaring in the air above you. They are nearly the same size. They are colored alike. They have the same extent of wing. They describe the most graceful curves. They seem to an ordinary observer to be birds of the same species. But when you look at them more carefully, you notice that one of them looks sunward, and gradually rises upon his great pinions into the higher atmosphere, enjoylation could be covered by a general ing the intoxications of his mighty statute. Will not some of our lawyer flight. You also notice that the other readers write this matter up for THE looks earthward, and slowly settles down into the mephitic vapors of the reeking earth. The one has the sun in his eye and soars upward; the other has the exhalations from some bit of stinking putrescence in his nose, and he settles downward. The one is the imperial eagle; the other is the dirty buzzard. These birds may be taken as types of men. Some people aspire: other people grovel. Some people fix their attention upon the things that are pure and ennobling; other people bend all their attention upon reeking nasti-The eagle these; the buzzard

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has been at a caucus; and, everything consid- that bears so heavily on the people. ered, it enjoyed itself very well indeed. Until recently we had no idea of the uses that mere noise could be put to. We think we shall in future entertain sentiments of respect for mere clatter life at the present time who do not take lions of the revenue-has not examthat we had never thought possible to it for granted that the money to be ined the subject, or else he has not us. Then, too, we have been made to raised for the support of the govern- enough capacity to understand the understand that grave Senators and ment should be levied as a duty upon most elementary proposition in econ-Representatives can unbend and assume imports. There is no controversy be omics. Where does the government the rollickingly boyish, with a facility tween the Democratic and Republican get the right to tax one class of freeand promptness that does great credit parties upon the principle involved in men, for the support of the governto their elasticity. We have also a the tariff. These parties differ only in ment, and to let all other classes go conception of how order may come out respect to the object and extent of such free of taxation? Do not the most of confusion, that comes very near to duties. The Democrats hold that the elemental notions of freedom make it being a revelation to us. We had duties upon imports are to be levied certain that the necessary burdens of thought that when his toil-worn fingers with the purpose of securing the sums government shall be borne by all the loosened upon the symbols of supreme of money needed for the support of the power, and he turned away from the government. The Republicans hold which they may belong? Yet this cares of the dictatorship to grasp again that customs duties should be laid infamous system comes in, and with the handles of his plow, that old Cin- with the double purpose of raising the an impudent effrontery that ought to cinnatus had permanently retired from money for public expenditure, and for set the blood of freemen to boiling, politics. But our caucus observation the protection of our own industries. tells the consumers that they must not the burning of the Monroe High School has convinced us that the sturdy old Any one who gives attention to these only pay all the taxes necessary to building with the loss of the lives of two Roman is not only in public life, but simple statements will see that all the support the government, but they bright young men. It is the old, old is seeking to have something to do discussions which have been had in the must pay tribute to the manufacturers

sufficient means of escape. Will the lina railroads. We have no doubt that form have turned upon the single quesage a legislative caucus in North Caro- two rogues should fall out, and quarlina with his antique and severely rel over the question of the purpose classical methods, he will get badly and extent of a contemplated larceny, left every time.

A CORRESPONDENT thinks we whitewashed Secretary Beddingfield, and The rogues would be agreed that the demands to know the facts about his larceny should be committed, however cheap railroad fares. We thought we much they might differ as to the use stated the facts with sufficient clearness to be made of the stolen property, or to enable any one to understand them. as to the amount of property to be We state them again. There were taken. But that which appears to be some young men living at Mill Brook, simple in an illustration of the sort we Mr. Beddingfield's station, who had have mentioned, becomes misty and cheap commutation tickets on the rail- uncertain in the discussion of questions road to enable them to attend school of public policy. It may startle some in Raleigh five days in each week. Mr. of our Democratic friends to tell them Beddingfield asked the railroad com- that there is no difference, in principle. pany to give him the same rates to between their tariff notions and policy attend the legislature six days in each and those of the Republican party. week. And the same rates were given But startle them as it may, the truth to him that were given to the young must be told. There is no difference men. That is, Mr. Beddingfield in principle between a low tariff and bought tickets to and from Raleigh a high tariff, except a difference in deat the lowest rates at which they were sold at his railroad station. The man is an iniquity, then the Democratic who can see anything wrong in this tariff policy is only a lesser iniquity. has a funny way of judging of moral | The one is a tariff with protection as questions. If our correspondent were the end and revenue as the incident; as ready to think well of men's actions as he seems to be to think ill of the end and protection as the incident. them, he would be a much better and happier man. His charge that we whitewashed Mr. Beddingfield is the based upon a fundamental iniquity. sheerest nonsense. We do not publish the letter of our correspondent, in ally iniquitous, because they hinder the spite of his imperious demand that we free intercourse of people with people. with letters that were not written to accuse our brethren.

EQUALIZE THE BURDEN.

To conform to the demands of justice and thereby subserve the best interests of the whole people, should be a gov erning principle in legislation. Various enterprises and institutions are calling for appropriations at the hands of our legislators. These legislators, knowing that the weight of the burden will fall on the agricultural interests of the State, are wisely exercising great caution in the matter of increasing taxation. They know that the farmers of the collecting of revenues by customs the State are already loaded as heavily as they can bear. But our State institutions must be kept up. It must be to the sum of our virtues, and enlarge done by taxation. Education must be advanced. It must be done by taxincreased taxes when agricultural val ues are sinking every day? The taxes must be forthcoming, but from what source? The Progressive Farmer sug- no doubt at all that the Decalogue itgests that the legislature pass a law to unearth the hidden property in its to the man who can see anything but various forms, which now pays no tax at all, and make it bear its just proportion of the burdens of taxation. Over two-thirds of the wealth of this country is not assessed one cent for purposes of taxation. Let it be dragged forth and taxed. Why could not the tax the daily hunger of its citizens to legislature pass a law requiring every holder of a solvent credit to bring it a style of extravagance and waste, the forward and list it, as the farmer does his mule or his land? Provide the assessors all through the State with a seal which shall stamp on the note the word "assessed" with the date and the name of the assessor. Let this stamp hunger and actual nakedness, and levybe put on all these notes, etc., and if they do not bear this stamp, let them be non-collectable under the law. Such a law would reduce our present rate of taxation at least twenty-five per hungry and taxing him until he becent. and enable us to increase our comes hungry? What is the differappropriations to great State objects fifty per cent. If our legislature will squeeze the "water" out of our railroad and other stocks and thus reduce difference between taxing a man's the charges on railroads to the honest basis of paying an honest dividend on that he uses to gratify his tastes? We the property of the State to the front and make it bear its honest part of the burthens of the government, we need ances to be borne upon our sheerest huhear but little complaint as to taxes man necessities. and our old State would be imbued the manner in which they are imposed upon consumers, to the exclusion of

THE TARIFF—AN INIQUITY.

involved no condemnation of theft, no devotion to, or regard for, honesty. gree. If the Republican tariff policy the other is a tariff with revenue as

We dare to maintain the thesis that any system of duties upon imports is

Duties upon imports are fundamentcountry with country must hinder the civilization and progress of the less appear to some to be Eutopian and farfetched. We do not see how it can well appear otherwise to those narrow persons who commit themselves to duties. But the progress of men in the line of those achievements which add the extent of our powers over the refractory forces of nature, and increase our sympathies, and quicken our aspithe attention of statesmen. We make self seems Eutopian and impracticable a fundamental wrong in any tariff system of the past, or of the present.

Duties upon imports are fundamentally iniquitous because they levy a burdensome tax upon our human necessities. If the city of Raleigh should support the municipal government in town would hurl the city government out of both power and life in less time than a week. But what is the difference in levying a tax upon actual ing a tax upon the things that are necessary to satisfy hunger and cover nakedness? What is the difference ence between taxing a man because he is cold, and taxing him until he is compelled to get cold? What is the actual tastes, and taxing everything honest investment and will bring all impeach this system of tariff taxation of high crimes and misdemeanors, in that it lays heavy burdens and griev-

Duties upon imports are fundamentwith new life and new hope. It is ally iniquitous because they levy a tax not so much the amount of taxes as for the support of the government imported goods, and the consumers of the protected home-produced goods, There are few, if any, men in public pay all the taxes—the uncounted milpeople, irrespective of the classes to

Rome. But if he undertakes to man upon any question of principle. If being anything else than a thief. Ignorant or roguish he must be. It in this, and in other countries, may wrong-eternally and essentially wrong good when they are used to bolster a

make it certain that the system of tariff taxation is a plain iniquity. We shall take up, at another time, the question as to what system of taxation can be substituted for this abomination, with entire fairness to all classes.

TO WIPE OUT KANSAS MORT GAGES

Atchison, Kan., Feb. 26.—An agent of an English company with an authorized capital of \$1,000,000 is in the city for the purpose of obtaining figures on | SIVE FARMER, and especially with your defaulted Kansas mortgages. The company proposes to buy up all such mortgages and foreclose the same. Having secured the titles, the lands will be offered to actual settlers on ten or twenty years purchase at a low rate of Here is one of the legitimate results

of the wicked financial policy of the

government. The lands of the great West were purchased by men of energy, of industry and of hope. They were settled at a time when we had sufficient currency in the country to transact the business of the countryhence at a time when wheat and the do so, because we can fill the paper Civilization makes progress mainly by other principal crops of the West sold business contract of country with for remunerative prices. But the country. The superior elements in | "gold bugs" of the country—the men the civilization of any country will who, like Mr. Cleveland, would have transmit themselves most rapidly to a labor to pay tribute to a gold-god, less favored people and country were not satisfied. They went to work ness of those who uphold them; and through the business intercourse of deliberately to deify and to degrade this gold standard cause is one such those countries. Any system, there- everything else called money. They cause. Any one knows that these men fore, which limits the intercourse of succeeded by fraud to secure the powerful arm of the government as an ally in this outrageous and wholesale favored country. This argument may robbery of honest labor. They raised the price of gold and depreciated the the products of labor. The corn and wheat of the West sank gradually but surely until the purchasers of these farms found themselves absolutely unable to longer pay the interest on their mortgages. Now the money syndicates of England step in to buy these farms for a price greatly below their value and to turn these people ation. But how can the farmers pay the sum of our happiness, and broaden out to begin life anew. And the scheme does not stop here. Agents of rations, is certainly not unworthy of loan companies throughout the West demand and exact from borrowers notes which are to be paid in goldprincipal and interest. There is doubtless a two-fold object in this. One is to perpetuate the single-money-standard idea, and the other is to intimidate the farmers and deter them from pressing their demand for financial reform. This demand for gold payment is held as a sword of terror over the heads of those who so manfully and so heroicly declared, in the November election, that they intended to people of this quiet and peaceful old have a financial system that will rob gold of its power to oppress. Sooner or later the farmers of the South and of the whole country will be confronted with this insolent scheme for their subjugation and degradation. The money kings of Europe and America are in this wicked conspiracy. But they are "sowing to the wind" and between taxing a man because he is in the righteous retribution of an avenging justice, they will surely "reap the whirlwind." Mr. Cleveland, nor all the great lights of plutocratic ideas, can stay the storm that is gathering. The American farmer is determined to have an open field and an equal chance for an honest living. and he will not longer heed the siren voice of men who would lead him into slavery and serfdom.

THE MONEY JUGGLERS.

Dear money means cheap labor, and the money usurers are now striving to increase the value of their dollars, or, in other words, to reduce the price of cess. Look at your own Legislature. goods and the wages of labor. The You try to get the rate of interest down all other classes. The man who does dollar is a measure of value, and the to 6 per cent and fail. Why? An honmoney usurers have altered the meas- est and intelligent Legislature should ure whenever they could gain by so have made the rate 3 per cent. with-

1,000 bushels of wheat at one dollar a bed the farmers out of \$10 for every bushel, and between the time the contract was made and the wheat was de- taken from them and the middle men livered, could reduce the size of the have taken five times more, and the legal bushel to one-half of its former railroads as much more. Why did Jecapacity, he would gain only 500 hovah prohibit the taking of interest? bushels (of the old dimensions) by his Did he have any good reasons for it juggling; but he would gain \$1,000 if 4,000 years ago? Are the same reasons he could, during the same period, double the value of the dollar, instead of decreasing the size of the bushel; provided, however, that he could, immediately after the transaction, alter the dollar-measure to the value it had when he made the contract. The juggling would be as follows:

Contract: . 1,000 bushels for \$1,000. 1st juggle: 500 " " 1,000. 2nd juggle: 1,000 " " 2,000. It is by the second system of jugglery that the money jugglers are constant-

iquity of this system we find it very employed. By such jugglery the bondfatal practice of erecting many-storied the ancient Roman farmer had a good tion of the purposes and the extent of hard to look upon the man who delib- buyers have cheated the toilers out of easy time while he was dictator in the application of the system, and not erately advocates its continuance as billions of dollars during the past twenty-seven years.

When usurers lend, they try to lend is little matter to us, that great names cheap money. When the loans are repaid, they wish them to be repaid in any one could see that such a contest be brought forward to support and dear money, or in cheap goods. Thereperpetuate this infamy. The thing is fore they wish to retain power to alter the standard of value. They want the -and great names count for nothing amount of currency to be small, so they may corner it, and thus make it dear; and, hence, they oppose any The reasons we have now given plans for supplying an abundance of currency, either in the form of notes based on silver, or on land or crops.

The farmers and all other workersemploying or employed-should support Senator Stanford's bill, which, if passed, will supply a sound currency that the usurers will be unable to WM. HARRISON RILEY.

Mr. Editor:-I have been pleased with many things you have written since you took charge of THE PROGRESfearless criticism of the partisan action of Democratic Alliancemen, in excluding Republican Alliancemen, from their caucus. But in your issue of February 24th, commenting upon silver coinage, you say:

"If thinking men will sit down and ask themselves the question, Who are the men that oppose the free coinage of silver? they will find that they are without exception the men who have stolen the wealth of the country in the name of the public credit, and a few men and newspapers whom they own soul and body. The motive which moves them to express a most rancorous and bitter hatred of silver money is the fear that any increase of the circulation will lessen the value of their stolen swag, and so loosen in some degree their bandit grasp upon the financial windpipes of the people. Some causes should perish by the very meanare not to be trusted upon any questions of financial reform. For no measure will suit them that compels them to be honest men and earn their livings by useful labor, as other men do.'

Now I fully believe you mean to be fair and honest and to speak the truth, but in this you are greatly mistaken. Why don't you ask who pays the lobby men about Congress, who are working secretly and openly to get the free coinage bill passed? Who has paid farmer advocates to write and lecture among the farmers to deceive them upon this matter? Who will receive the lion's share of the swag if the free coinage bill passes? When you get the right answer to these questions you will find the real big nigger in the wood pile.

A few silver kings own all the silver mines in the United States, and free coinage means a sure market for their products at the rate of \$1.26 per oz., which would add to their net profits \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 per annum. At this time Uncle Sam is buying \$54,-000,000 per annum at from 98 to \$1.02 per oz. which gives him a profit of, say, \$13,500,000, all of which would go into the pockets of the silver kings in and out of Congress under the free coinage bill, while now it goes to the government or the people. If all the mines were owned by the people, as they should be, then free coinage would mean something besides fraud and humbug. It seems to be natural for the human mind to take in myths and humbugs, and the greater these are the more greedily and freely are they taken in and the more tenaciously held

The things that would do the farm ers the least good, or the most final harm, are now run after with a blind infatuation which must lead to defeat and very likely to great disaster in the Partisan bummers and capitalists

are using hypocrites and traitors to fool and mislead the unthinking masses of the industrial armies and setting them to chasing allusive and delusive moonbeams and thereby to keep them from demanding and getting reforms that are vital to their interest and sucin ten days after its opening. The devil If a farmer contracted to deliver fish sucking power of interest has robten cents the tariff has really ever not sound to-day? Was the jubilee every fifty years a wise and good provision then? Why not now?

W. M. EVANS. Amherst, Va., Feb. 25.

A French railroad has hit upon a new source of revenue. In future people who accompany their friends to any of the stations on that line to see them off will be admitted on the platform only on payment of a fee of one story of a high school building without with the management of North Caro last quarter of a century upon tariff relat home. When we look at the in- ly robbing the toilers employing and ceive a special ticket of authorization. penny, in return for which they will re-